(PATENT)

22313-1450, on the date shown below.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Rostal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA

re Patent Application of:

John E. Jones

Application No.: 09/899727

Filed: July 5, 2001

For: AUTOMATED PAYMENT SYSTEM AND

METHOD

Art Unit: N/A

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 17 of this paper.

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